



United States Department of the Interior

NATIONAL PARK SERVICE
Devils Postpile National Monument
P.O. BOX 3999
Mammoth Lakes, CA 93546



December 15, 2022

Lesley Yen, Forest Supervisor
c/o Fred Wong, Mammoth Lakes District Ranger
Inyo National Forest
351 Pacu Lane, Suite 200
Bishop, CA 93514

Re: Mammoth Mountain Main Lodge Redevelopment

Dear Ms. Lesley Yen:

Thank you for the opportunity to provide the following comments for inclusion in the upcoming Environmental Impact Statement and associated analysis of proposed project Mammoth Mountain Main Lodge Redevelopment (62406).

Devils Postpile National Monument (monument) provides recreational, research, and educational opportunities for approximately 145,000 visitors each year. State Route 203 and Reds Meadow Road provide the only vehicle access to the monument. Visitation to the monument is currently limited by vehicle access to Reds Meadow Road and the shuttle bus service that is provided by Eastern Sierra Transit Authority. The National Park Service seeks to provide access to all sectors of the American public. We strive to balance public access opportunities with our commitment to preserve monument resources and provide a safe experience for monument visitors.

Any changes to public vehicle access, shuttle bus access, or administrative access for monument operations may affect public safety, resource protection, and monument operations. When conducting your analysis, the monument respectfully requests that you consider the following issues that potentially impact public access and monument operations.

- 1) Public Access to everyone. The selected alternative should address any Americans with Disabilities Act access considerations. Please consider personal vehicle access to the monument and other attractions in Reds Meadow. Please also consider alternatives that do not require extensive walking between the shuttle stop(s) and parking.
- 2) Parking capacity and access for Reds Meadow Shuttle. The current proposal changes the configuration of parking that is used for Reds Meadow Shuttle and includes construction of several buildings where parking is now available. Please prioritize redevelopment

plan alternatives that allow for adequate parking, directional signage, and access to parking for the newly established shuttle stop(s).

- 3) Access for fire response, construction equipment and delivery trucks. Construction equipment and delivery trucks require access to the monument. The length of these trucks is already limited by the configuration of Reds Meadow Road, but please also consider whether or not this proposed reroute of a section of Route 203 will reduce accessibility of fire response, construction equipment, and delivery trucks to Reds Meadow.
- 4) Road maintenance. The condition and snow plowing of this road directly impacts access to the monument. This affects the monument's ability to provide public services and our ability to provide housing for staff. Please consider the impacts to monument operations if the proposed reroute will impact how this segment of road is maintained or when it is accessible to monument staff and/or the public.

I am available by telephone at 760-924-5506 or by email at rebecca_carr_wong@nps.gov to provide any additional clarification regarding these concerns. I would be happy to provide more information about how monument operations may be impacted by various alternatives during your analysis of this project proposal.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Rebecca Carr Wong
National Monument Site Manager
Devils Postpile National Monument